

HOLY TRINITY

NEWS

July 2024

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 610-826-2524

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July 2024

July 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 30	Jul 1 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	2 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	3 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	4 Independence Day	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	6
7 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	8 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	9 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	10 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	11 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	13
14 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	15 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	16 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	17 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	18 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	19 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	20
21 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	22 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	23 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	24 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	25 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 7:00pm Camera Club	26 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	27
28 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	29 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	30 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	31 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	Aug 1	2	3

COUNCIL MEETING
CANCELED

From the Pastor's Desk – July 2024

“Christmas in July”

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

(Luke 1:26-35 NRSV-U)

I was reading something the other day that tried to make the case that Christianity has, in building a religion around Jesus, created something that Jesus himself never intended. Jim Palmer was a very successful Evangelical pastor but, after 20+ years in ministry, he walked away. These days it has become a bit of a thing – called deconstructing. He no longer believes. He seems to be trying to figure out what to do with Jesus apart from what he considers the trappings of Christianity. He wrote, *“In my view, Christianity royally messed up by putting Jesus on a pedestal and creating a religion in his name. By doing so, the Christian religion made Jesus unhuman – virgin birth, sinless perfection, God in the flesh, savior of the world, bodily raised from the grave into heaven.”*

What are we to make of such a thing? Apparently, he wants to be able to pick and choose those parts of the Jesus story that he likes, that make sense to him, that he believes are rational while rejecting the rest. He's hardly the first person to attempt such

a feat. Founding Father and third President Thomas Jefferson was a Rationalist. He rejected the supernatural aspects of the Christian religion and the story of Jesus. He compiled an account of the life and teachings of Jesus that eliminated the miracles and those other aspects of the story that he could not believe. Literally with razor and glue, he cut and pasted the parts he liked, the moral teachings and the narrative of the story, but left all references to miracles, to the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection on, as it were, the cutting room floor.

It seems important to me, then, that we should take a stand for the whole truth of the gospel. When some are declaring their rejection of the clear Word of God in the pages of Scripture, the Creeds, and the life and ministry of the Church, we need to be bold in affirming our faith and trust in all that God has done for us and for the world in Jesus, in his Incarnation, his life and ministry, and in his death and resurrection.

You have, undoubtedly, heard of “Christmas in July”. Well, let’s take this time to celebrate God’s gracious act in the Incarnation of Jesus – the Eternal Son of the Father from before the foundation of the world taking on our humanity so that we might come to be reconciled in love to the God who created us, in whose image we are created. This Jesus, whose teachings Jim Palmer, Thomas Jefferson and others wish to hold up as exemplary, was not – is not merely a good moral teacher. This Jesus was not merely human, though indeed he was and is every bit as human as you and I. It is the clear witness of Scripture that Jesus has been, from the moment of his conception in the Virgin Mary, the Incarnate only-begotten Son of God. In the words of the Nicene Creed – **“God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.”**

What, you may ask, did Martin Luther believe about the Incarnation? In the Small Catechism, in his explanation to the second article of the creed, Luther wrote this: **“I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.”** Luther understood and accepted the truth that in Jesus we see both our own humanity and full divinity and that the two natures in Christ are necessary for the working out of our justification and salvation. He wrote this in order to explain the truth of the Incarnation: **“We Christians should know that if God is not in the scale to give it weight, we, on our side, sink to the ground. I mean it this way: if it cannot be said that God died for us, but**

only a man, we are lost; but if God's death and a dead God lie in the balance, His side goes down and ours goes up like a light and empty scale. Yet He can also readily go up again or leap out of the scale! But He could not sit on the scale unless He became a man like us, so that it could be called God's dying, God's martyrdom, God's blood, and God's death. For God in His own nature cannot die; but now that God and man are united in one person, it is called God's death when the man dies who is one substance or one person with God."

On the Councils and the Church, quoted in the Formula of Concord:

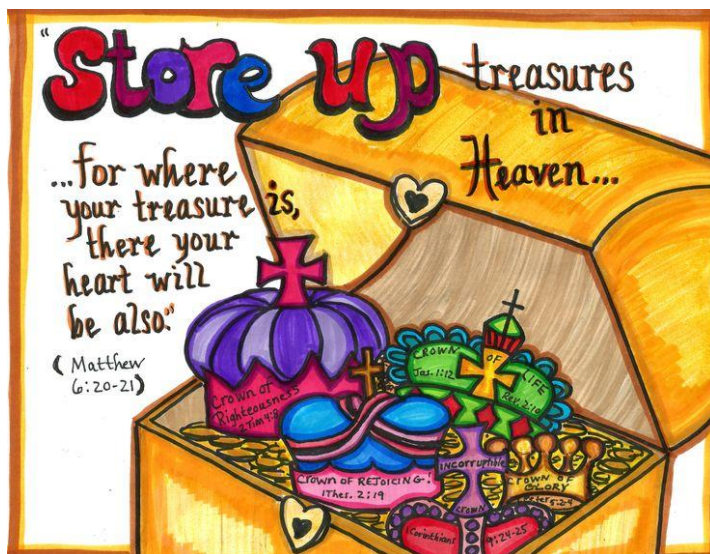
Solid Declaration VIII:44, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions,

McCain et al., Eds. (St. Louis: Concordia, 2005, 2006) pp. 588-89

So, on Sunday, July 21, we are going to celebrate these powerful realities, the truth of the Incarnation, with a Christmas in July worship service at both St. Matthew's and at Holy Trinity. The Christmas readings and some of your favorite carols will help us lift up the whole witness of Scripture and the traditions of the faith that communicate to us the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation in the Virgin birth, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We hope you will join us.

Blessings to you and Peace in Jesus, the Incarnate Son of the Father

Pastor Mike



HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRY

THRIFT SHOP:

TUESDAY 9am-12:30pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

May Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 7,691
May St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,300
May Additional Income	\$ 1,046
May Monthly Expenses:	\$ 12,372
Attendance:	
May 05, 2024	41
May 12, 2024	36
May 19, 2024	36
May 26, 2024	29

ANNIVERSARIES

July 03	Dennis & Gerry Dorshimer	59 years
July 04	Ray & Karen Talamantes	16 years
July 05	Robin & Shirley Suarez	49 years
July 16	David & Veronica Blocker	19 years
July 22	William & Brittany Zeky	07 year
July 24	Pastor Michael & Ginny Frost	25 years



July 04	Brian Everett
July 04	Lizzie Reif
July 06	Sandra Benson
July 08	Vicky Holland
July 11	Gordon Walls
July 14	Garry James
July 14	Karen McIntosh
July 19	Sean Hamor
July 20	Robert Reinhart
July 23	Jason Pryce, Sr.
July 27	Jacqueline Grimley
July 27	Vanessa Zellers
July 28	Matthew Jahelka
July 30	Veronica Blocker

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

****NO JULY COUNCIL MEETING****



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Holland
 Jon Kistler
 Karen Talamantes
 Larry Arner
 Jim Miller
 Steve Berger
 Gerry Dorshimer
 Scott Heinrich
 Krissy Keblish
 Ron Keblish
 Eric Reif
 Ray Talamantes

President
 Vice-President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Asst. Treasurer

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner
 Carol Heffelfinger

Treasurer
 Financial Sec.

NOTE: If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:15 AM

July 07, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer

Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich

Altar Guild:

Flowers: IHO Gerry & Dennis Dorshimer's Anniv.

Bulletins: Barb & Joe Herman,

IMO B. Smith 7/3/25-5/6/23

Communion Bread: Barb & Joe Herman

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

July 14, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland

Altar Guild:

Flowers: Carol Borger

Bulletins: Carol Borger

Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

July 21, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut

Ushers: Loren LaRose & Carol Heffelfinger

Altar Guild:

Flowers: Val Kleppinger IMO Leonard

Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

July 28, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild:

Flowers: The Sosik Family IMO Loved Ones

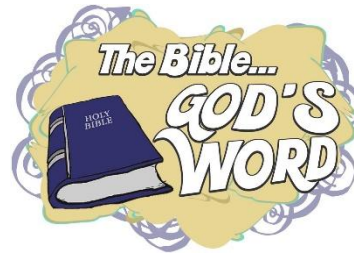
Communion Bread:

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer



CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Mike will have a children's sermon on the second Sunday of each month.



Bible Study

Mondays 1:30 PM - 3 PM at St. Matthew's

Thursdays 10:30 AM - Noon at Holy Trinity

HOME VISITS

Home visits and shut-in visits are being planned for May. If anyone would like to receive communion from Pastor Mike, please call the office @ 610-826-2524.



9am-1pm

SPONSORS NEEDED

Please consider sponsoring altar flowers, bulletins & communion bread. Altar Guilds are also needed.





July 4th Fun Facts

*Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.

*Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.

*The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.

*The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.

*The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

*The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

*President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.

*Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.

*Barbecue is also big on Independence Day. Approximately 150 million hot dogs and 700 million pounds of chicken are consumed on this day.

*Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.



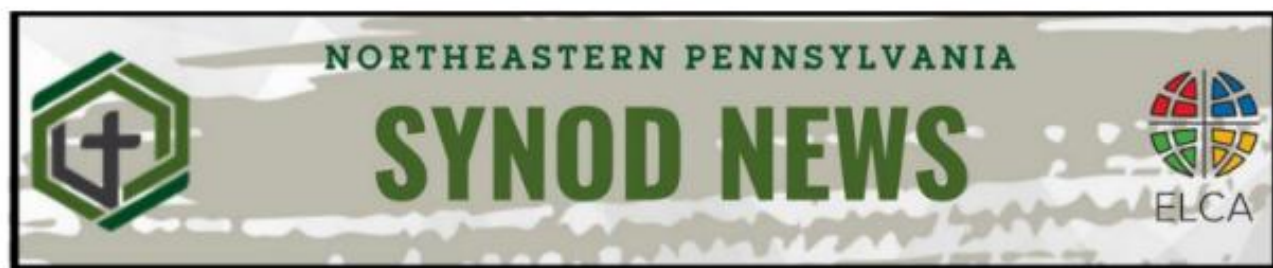
PALMERTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL NEWS

THE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 6TH, 7TH & 8TH. STAND WORKERS & BAKERS WILL BE NEEDED! KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR SIGNUP SHEETS IN THE FUTURE.

Sweet as Sugar

Holy Trinity's Mint Iced Tea is a favorite at the Community Festival. If you would like to donate a bag of white granulated sugar for our brew, please place it in the sugar donation box in the narthex during the summer months. Thanks!





Celebrating Success!



The Conclusion of the 37th Synod Assembly



On Saturday, June 8, over 376 Lutherans gathered in person and virtually to participate in the 37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The theme, "Hungry for Life Together in Christ," celebrated the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and highlighted the hunger ministries that congregations are implementing within their communities. Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan, who co-chairs the NEPS Hunger Team along with her husband, Brian, presented how our congregations are improving hunger issues through

ministries like food pantries, community gardens, and weekly food distributions. The ELCA representative, Marie Anne Sliwinski, Senior Director for Building Resilient Communities, expressed how Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO, God's Work Our Hands, and our synod are helping individuals not only in our country but around the world through mission support and volunteer work. Deacon Kat Tigerman introduced six congregations in Reading discerning themselves to be the first pilot 6261 community. "Our small sterling congregations are making the effort to talk, share, and consider the future," says Bill Knox of Hope Lutheran, Reading. Many shared how their congregations are growing in friendship, community, and faith. Members of the Assembly also gave \$2,365 towards ELCA World Hunger. The three resolutions passed by the synod assembly can be found at godslove.org/assembly2024.



Congratulations to Jim Doxsey, Rev. Dana Heckman-Beil, and Amy Mietelski on their election to the Synod Council! The Assembly also elected the following voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ: Bishop Christopher deForest, Nancy Reichelt, Mark Stana, Seth Noggle, Betty Jane Schaefer-Hassler, Ron Mordosky, Jackie Williams, Stephanie Druckenmiller, Rev. Brian Beissel, Deacon Dawn Talley, Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Rev. Lauren Applegate, Rev. Chris Druckenmiller, Rev. Ken Melber, Jr., Don Boyer, Stephen Hikes, Jean Sandberg, Rev. Nelson Quinones, Amanda Melber, Alicia Wood, Elizabeth Leibenguth, and Maria Marciano. To rewatch the excitement, visit the assembly webpage.

Submitted by: Stacey Burke (shelher) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

Witness and Service Team Grants are a Hugh Help!

Submitted by Georgia Suranofsky

During the assembly, we learned that over 2/3 of those congregations attending the in-person event, have either a food or garden ministry! Here is just one story about an amazing food ministry.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) was created in 2002 to provide a local, community-based source of food to those persons and households in the Governor Mifflin School District experiencing hardship or need, giving them sustenance and aid in the way of food and clothing on a temporary basis one a month.

I was told by Janet Reese, Board Member and one of the MCFM founders, that this food ministry is set apart by their lack of involvement with state or federal programs which in turn allows them for the past 22 years to pray with clients, distribute information on what is happening at their churches and invite the clients, share the gospel and inspirational materials with the families.

4 local churches including St. John's Evangelical Lutheran-Mohnton, New Life of Shillington, Calvary United Methodist and Zion Evangelical Congregational Church are the sponsors of the ministry. Zion is the host church where donations are collected, stored and then distributed. Community donations supply most of the non-perishable food and paper products

distributed to MCFM clients. 8 local churches and several organizations also provide non-perishable food, volunteer distribution tasks and money.

Food distributions prior to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas include grocery store gift cards for clients' use to buy perishable items and clients receive a gift also. In tears, 1 woman told the President of the food ministry, "I have never received a Christmas gift."

Last year, the community food ministry experienced a dramatic increase in the average number of households served per month going from 84 over 100. The number climbed in December 2023. This was the busiest month

ever, serving 149 households representing 482 people.

Gail Colahan, a member at St. John's Evangelical in Mohnton remembered the grants that are available

through the Witness and Service team and applied. The grant was approved for use this year and is providing meat and produce for the 12 monthly distributions.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry would not be successful without God's helping hand and the wonderful support received from volunteers, organizations, and churches that donate their time, money, and food," When we all share the burden of trying to make a community a better place, it lightens the load.



Take a minute to view some photos of the ministry by [clicking on this link](#).

You can find information on the [synod website](#) about the grants available from the Witness and Service Team. Your mission support giving makes these grants possible.

Thank you for your continued support!